

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

1-3, 5-12, 36, 37
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>INFINEON: "C167CR 16-bit Single-Chip Microcontroller" INFINEON HOME PAGE, 'Online! April 2000 (2000-04), XP002201995 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:www.infineon.com> 'retrieved on 2002-06-12! page 29 -page 30</p> <p>---</p>	1, 3, 5-12, 36, 37
A	<p>INFINEON: "CAN Baudrate Detection With Infineon CAN devicers" INFINEON HOME PAGE, 'Online! July 1999 (1999-07), XP002201996 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:www.infineon.com> 'retrieved on 2002-06-12! the whole document</p> <p>---</p>	2
A		1-3, 5-12, 36, 37

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-3 5-12 36 37

Switching to the asynchronous mode

2. Claim : 4

Peer-to-peer

3. Claims: 13-32

UART

4. Claims: 33-35

Group addresses

5. Claims: 38-42

Optical fibers for interconnection

For the following reasoning, the prior art document D1=XP2201995 is taken into account

From this prior art document is known

A network controller for digitally directing communication with a plurality of remote device via a common bus, the network controller comprising

a transmitter for digitally transmitting messages via common bus
a receiver for receiving digital messages via common bus
a clock for providing clock signal to both transmitter and receiver (page 2 table 2)

wherein transmitter and receiver are capable of selectively operating in either asynchronous or synchronous mode (page 2 table 2; page 29 paragraph 1)

wherein transmitter transmits both messages and clock signal via the common bus in synchronous mode (page 29 paragraph 6 - page 30 paragraph 4)

Wherein transmitter transmit messages at a predetermined bit rate without any accompanying clock signals via common bus (page 29 paragraph 2-5)

NOTE: C167CR support FullCAN transmission and reception of CAN frames in accordance with CAN specification V2.0 part B. Transmitting of the clock signal together with a message is a part of this standard.

The STF (Special Technical Feature) of subject 1, as defined in Rule 13(2) PCT, therefore can be found in the claim 2

- Clock transmitter operates at constant level during asynchronous mode

From the above, the following objective problem can be formulated as how to notify remote device to switch in the asynchronous mode

The 2nd group of claims (2nd invention) yields the non-disclosed (by the prior art document) potential STF of
-Network controller is capable of commanding a remote device to at least temporarily direct the communication with other remote device via common bus

The problem to be solved by claim 4 could be said to be how to enable peer-to-peer communication

The 3th group of claims (3th invention) yields the non-disclosed (by the prior art document) potential STF of
-Plurality Network controller supporting UART and Manchester encoding protocol

The problem to be solved by claims 13-32 could be said to be how to perform communication with a remote device supporting UART protocol

The 4th group of claims (4th invention) yields the non-disclosed (by the prior art document) potential STF of
-The transmitter being further adapted to simultaneously transmit messages to plurality of remote devices in accordance with group address

The problem to be solved by claims 33-35 could be said to be how to perform a multicast routing of messages

The 5th group of claims (5th invention) yields the non-disclosed (by the prior art document) potential STF of
A monitoring system comprising;
Optical fibers for interconnecting the first set of remote devices at the first position to the second set of remote device

The problem to be solved by claims 38-42 could be said to be how to facilitates transmission of the commands between remote devices

On the face of it, there are no technical features in the claimed invention, which can be seen as common or corresponding STF within the meaning of Rule 13(2)PCT. Moreover, the problems solved are different and not related.

In conclusion, therefor, the five groups of claims are not linked by common or corresponding special technical features and define five different inventions not linked by a single general inventive concept.

The application, hence does not meet the requirements of Unity of Invention as defined in Rule 13(1) & (2) PCT.